

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT NAIROBI 5902 ACTION STATE MAY 12.

QUOTE UNCLAS NAIROBI 5902

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SEVN, UNEP
SUBJ: UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL V - GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT

FOLLOWING IS GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT OF UN REPRESENTATIVE
TO UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL V ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
PATSY MINK, DELIVERED AT MORNING SESSION MAY 11:

QUOTE: UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL - FIFTH SESSION
US GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT - MAY 11, 1977
DELIVERED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE PATSY MINK:

"MR. PRESIDENT: ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION
MAY I CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR ELECTION AS WELL AS THE OTHER
OFFICERS WHO WILL BE SUPPORTING YOU THROUGHOUT THIS SESSION.
YOU HAVE THE FULL COOPERATION OF THE US DELEGATION IN YOUR EFFORTS
TO MAKE THIS A FRUITFUL AND PRODUCTIVE GOVERNING COUNCIL SESSION.

I WISH ALSO TO CONGRATULATE THE DISTINGUISHED EXECUTIVE
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DIRECTOR, DR. TOLBA, ON HIS RE-ELECTION BY THE 31ST GENERAL
ASSEMBLY. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE NEXT FOUR YEARS UNDER HIS
DYNAMIC AND CREATIVE LEADERSHIP WILL PRODUCE THE RESULTS TO
WHICH HE HAS PLEDGED HIS ADMINISTRATION.

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE PAYING MY FIRST VISIT TO KENYA AND
TO EXPERIENCE AT FIRST HAND THE BEAUTY OF THE COUNTRY AND THE
WARM HOSPITALITY OF ITS GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE.

THIS FIFTH COUNCIL MEETING PROVIDES US ALL A FRESH OPPORTUNITY

TO ASSESS THE WORK OF UNEP AND TO FORMULATE POLICIES WHICH WILL CARRY IT MORE SWIFTLY AND SURELY TO POSITIVE RESULTS. AS A FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN REPRESENTING HAWAII FOR THE PAST TWELVE YEARS, I AM ACUTELY AWARE OF THE FRAGILITY OF OUR LIFE-SUPPORTING ECOSYSTEMS AND THE INFINITE CARE WHICH WE MUST ASSIGN TO THEIR PROTECTION. IT WAS AN HONOR THEREFORE TO HAVE BEEN ASKED BY PRESIDENT CARTER TO JOIN HIS ADMINISTRATION AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE WITH JURISDICTION OVER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS. I COME TO THIS MOST PRESTIGIOUS BODY WITH GREAT EXCITEMENT AND ANXIOUS EXPECTATIONS THAT THE EFFORTS OF THE PAST FIVE YEARS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY EVEN GREATER ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE FUTURE.

PRESIDENT CARTER IS AN ENVIRONMENTALIST WITH A LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT. HE HAS PLEDGED HIS ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO PROTECT AND TO CONSERVE OUR RESOURCES WHETHER IT BE IN OUR OWN MANAGEMENT OF OUR LANDS AND INLAND WATERS, OR IN THE PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING OF THE OCEANS AND THE ATMOSPHERE. REGARDING ENERGY PROBLEMS IN PARTICULAR, HE POINTED OUT THAT THEY HAVE THE SAME ROOT CAUSE AS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS -- NAMELY, THE WASTEFUL USE OF RESOURCES. THERE IS INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS IN MY COUNTRY, STIMULATED BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION, THAT OUR NATURAL BOUNTIES ARE LIMITED AND THAT THEIR WASTE BY OUR PEOPLE MUST CEASE.

WE JOIN THE WORLD IN AN AGGRESSIVE SEARCH FOR ALTERNATE
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SOURCES OF ENERGY BY MAKING GREATER EFFORTS TO HARNESS THE SUN AND THE WIND, AND TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF GEOTHERMAL AND BIO-GAS RESOURCES. PART OF THE DEMANDS OF GREATER TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE CAN BE REALIZED IN THIS AREA BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RENEWABLE RESOURCES OF ENERGY. THIS IS A FRUITFUL MATTER OF EXCHANGE AND COLLABORATION FOR ALL CONCERNED, FOR THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THE DEVELOPING ONES. IT IS CERTAINLY ONE OF THE MAIN GOALS OF HABITAT AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION WILL SERVE TO ACCELERATE OUR PROGRESS TOWARDS A BETTER HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.

MY DELEGATION SEES A POSITIVE CONNECTION IN THIS BEGINNING OF A NEW PERIOD FOR UNEP AND THE START OF OUR OWN NEW ADMINISTRATION. WE FEEL THAT THE NOBLE PRINCIPLES TO WHICH WE ALL PLEDGED OUR BEST EFFORTS FIVE YEARS AGO AT STOCKHOLM REMAIN AS CHALLENGING TODAY AS THEN. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNEP MARKED A HISTORIC BEGINNING OF COOPERATION AMONG NATIONS IN THE RECOGNITION OF OUR COMMON HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY TO SAFEGUARD OUR ENVIRONMENT.

AS I SEE IT, THERE ARE TWO ASPECTS OF OUR WORK:
ONE - THE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION OF FURTHER DEGRADATION OF OUR PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. THESE PROJECTS ARE DESIGNED TO CURB

POLLUTION, GUARD AGAINST IRREVERSIBLE RESOURCE DEPLETION, AND STOP THE RECKLESS DESPOILATION OF OUR LAND, OUR FORESTS, OUR WATER, AND OUR ATMOSPHERE. UNEP'S ROLE IS TO BRING ATTENTION TO THESE THREATS TO THE GLOBAL ECOSYSTEMS AND TO CAUSE NATIONS UNDER THE GLARE OF WORLD CONCERN TO STOP AND START TO REVERSE THESE TRENDS.

THE SECOND ASPECT OF OUR WORK - THE PROMOTION AND ADVANCEMENT OF THE HUMAN CONDITION SO THAT ALL PEOPLES CAN SHARE THE BOUNTY OF THE EARTH TO ENJOY GOOD NUTRITION, SAFE WATER, AND A HEALTHFUL ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH TO LIVE.

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A COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT, THEREFORE, MUST DO BOTH - (1) IT MUST WORK AGGRESSIVELY TO PREVENT POLLUTION AND TO ENCOURAGE CONSERVATION: AND (2) IT MUST TAKE INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL EFFORTS TOWARD THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE HUMAN CONDITION EVERYWHERE.

IN THIS MATTER OF IMPROVING THE HUMAN CONDITION, MAY I ADD THAT WE MUST REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN. WOMEN SUFFER THE WORST MALNUTRITION AND ARE IN THE POOREST HEALTH AS THEY STRUGGLE TO KEEP THEIR CHILDREN ALIVE. A DIMINISHED ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ROLE FOR WOMEN STIFLES RIGHTFUL ASPIRATIONS WHICH INSTEAD, IF NURTURED, COULD HELP TO DOUBLE THE CAPACITY OF A COMMUNITY TO EXTEND ITS RESOURCES AND TO OPTIMIZE ITS ECONOMIC POTENTIAL. A POLICY WHICH ENGAGES WOMEN IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT BEYOND THE FAMILY HELPS TO CREATE POSITIVE MOTIVATIONS FOR MANAGEABLE SIZE FAMILIES AND IN MANY WAYS IMPACTS UPON THE QUALITY OF LIFE IMMEDIATELY. OUR SEARCH FOR THE MODEL HUMAN SETTLEMENT MUST CONTAIN A PLACE OF EQUALITY FOR THE WOMAN, HER ENHANCEMENT WILL BE THE ENHANCEMENT OF OUR TOTAL LIFE.

AT THIS TIME, I MUST TAKE NOTE OF THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF RECENT UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES DEALING WITH POPULATION, FOOD, THE STATUS OF WOMEN, WATER, AND OF COURSE HUMAN SETTLEMENT, THE UPCOMING MEETINGS ON DESERTIFICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: AND THE MANY ONGOING GOOD WORKS OF THE UN AGENCIES.

THE ENVIRONMENT FUND WAS ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE UNEP WITH A POTENT INSTRUMENT TO GOAD, CAJOLE, LEAD THE UN SYSTEM IN THE EXECUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS. AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HIMSELF HAS POINTED OUT, THE TASKS INVOLVED IN CARRYING OUT THIS ASSIGNMENT CREATED IN ITS INITIATION A TENSION WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM--WE BELIEVE IT A CREATIVE TENSION--WHICH WAS INEVITABLE.

IN REPORTING TO THE 31ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION, THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND

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BUDGETARY QUESTIONS COMMENTED ON THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUGGESTION "THAT UNEP MUST BE THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIENCE OF THE THE UN SYSTEM AND ITS ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATE TO THE WORLD AND THAT ITS CENTRAL ROLE IS NOT ONLY TO COORDINATE BUT ALSO TO CREATE A GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND TO CONSOLIDATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN A FORM LENDING ITSELF TO GOVERNMENTAL DECISION-MAKING."

TODAY, AFTER FIVE YEARS UNEP IS FIRMLY A MEMBER OF THE UN SYSTEM. IT IS CLEARLY EVIDENT FROM THE REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATION BOARD, BEFORE US IN DOCUMENT 89, THAT THE WORKING RELATIONS BETWEEN UNEP AND THE REST OF THE SYSTEM HAVE REACHED A MATURITY WHICH SHOULD ENABLE THE ECB TO BECOME THE CREATIVE INSTRUMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION FOR WHICH IT WAS ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED.

NOW, MR. PRESIDENT, IF I MAY, I WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN WHICH WE HAVE A PARTICULAR INTEREST. WE WILL BE PREPARED TO GO INTO ADDITIONAL DETAIL AND SUPPLEMENT THESE POINTS IN THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE. IT WILL COME AS NO SURPRISE TO THIS COUNCIL FOR ME TO SAY, AS U.S. DELEGATIONS TO PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS HAVE SAID, THAT WE VIEW EARTHWATCH AS THE VERY CORNERSTONE OF UNEP. THE INFORMATION REFERRAL SYSTEM IS NOW OPERATIONAL, AND WE WELCOME THIS AS OPENING UP, PARTICULARLY TO THE DEVELOPING WORLD, A VAST SOURCE OF INFORMATION ASSISTANCE IN COPING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS. BEING OPERATIONAL, HOWEVER, WILL NOT MAKE A SUCCESS OF THE IRS. IT WILL BE A SUCCESS ONLY TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT IS UTILIZED. WE WOULD URGE ALL MEMBERS TO BRADLY PUBLICIZE THE SERVICES AVAILABLE UNDER THE IRS THROUGHOUT THEIR COUNTRIES AND TO FULLY USE THE IRS IN ASSESSING AND CORRECTING THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

GEMS, THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SYSTEM, IS NOW GETTING UNDERWAY. WE BELIEVE IT HAS BEEN TOO LONG IN REACHING ITS PRODUCTIVE STATE, AND WE WILL HAVE SOME FURTHER UNCLASSIFIED

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SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE WITH REGARD TO ITS DEVELOPMENT IN COMMITTEE I. I ONLY WISH TO EMPHASIZE HERE THAT WE LOOK ON GEMS AS BASIC TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DATA UPON WHICH ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS CAN BE DESIGNED. THEREFORE UNEP SHOULD START NOW ASSEMBLING INFORMATION FROM ALL COUNTRIES, FRAGMENTARY AS THE EARLY DATA MAY BE, TO BEGIN TO PROVIDE THE DATA AGAINST WHICH WE CAN BEGIN TO TAKE CORRECTIVE MEASURES. THE WORK OF THE ECB SUB-GROUP ON RESEARCH AND EVALUATION - AND THIS IS A CRUCIAL COMPONENT OF EARTHWATCH - SHOULD BE CAREFULLY COORDINATED AND MESHED WITH PROGRESS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF GEMS.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF ASSURING

THAT ADEQUATE SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION. CONSERVATION OF UNIQUE NATURAL
AREAS AND THE INDIGENOUS SPECIES THAT INHABIT THEM IS A
FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN. IN THIS CONNECTION,
I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE OUR POSITION IN SUPPORT OF A 10-YEAR
MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL WHALING AND PLEDGE OUR BEST EFFORTS TO
PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR MARINE MAMMALS.

WE AGREE WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THAT THE ASSESSMENT OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES HAS BECOME
AN ACCEPTED, SENSIBLE APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING.
WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE UNEP TAKE A LEAD ROLE IN ESTABLISHING
METHODOLOGIES AND TECHNIQUES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BY THE
UN FAMILY. THIS ACTION COULD PROVIDE A MECHANISM FOR ASSURING THE
AVOIDANCE OF COSTLY MISTAKES.

IN THE EXERCISE OF OUR OWN AID PROGRAMS WE WILL BE
REQUIRING OF OURSELVES AND OF OUR OWN ADMINISTRATORS AN EXTENSIVE
ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF OUR PROJECTS SO AS TO
BETTER APPRAISE THE PEOPLES AFFECTED EXACTLY WHAT THE OUTCOMES
ARE LIKELY TO BE. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT EACH NATION HAS THIS
OBLIGATION TO ANOTHER WHO MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY ITS ACTIONS.
THUS THE NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ACCEPTABLE METHODOLOGIES AND
TECHNIQUES IS ESSENTIAL IF IF UNEP IS TO MEET ITS GOAL AS A COORD-
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INATOR.

WITH REGARD TO THE DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE FOR WHICH WE
WILL BE CONVENING THE FINAL PREPARATORY SESSION ON THURSDAY,
I TAKE THIS TIME NOW TO CONGRATULATE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR
HIS COMPREHENSIVE AND CLEAR REPORT AND TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION
TO HIM AND THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT FOR THESE EXEMPLARY
PLANNING ACTIVITIES.

TURNING TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON THE STATE OF
THE ENVIRONMENT, WE FOUND THE SECTION ON THE OZONE PROBLEM
A USEFUL INTRODUCTION TO THIS SUBJECT, ONE WITH WHICH MY OWN
GOVERNMENT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED. WE WERE VERY PLEASED
TO HOST UNEP'S CONFERENCE ON THE OZONE LAYER IN WASHINGTON
EARLIER THIS YEAR. IN OUR VIEW THE CONFERENCE RESULTED IN MANY
USEFUL SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDING FURTHER
RESEARCH AND MONITORING. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS MOST ASSUREDLY
AN AREA IN WHICH UNEP HAS PLAYED A USEFUL CATALYTIC ROLE IN HELPING
TO ALERT THE WORLD OF A POSSIBLE PROBLEM IN ADVANCE OF A CRISIS.

IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT ON MONDAY, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ASKED US PARTICULARLY TO COMMENT ON TWO MATTERS. HE IDENTIFIED
21 GOALS WHICH HE FEELS SHOULD FORM THE MAJOR FOCUS OF UNEP
ACTIVITIES IN THE YEARS AHEAD. WE RECOGNIZE THAT UNEP'S ROLE
IS CATALYTIC AND COORDINATIVE AND IN THIS CONTEXT WE SUPPORT
THESE IN PRINCIPLE. WE WILL HAVE SOME COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ASPE-
CTS OF THE GOALS IN THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE.

THE SECOND ITEM CONCERNED UNEP'S DEVELOPMENT OF A CAPACITY TO ASSESS RISKS AND SOUND ALARMS WHEN APPROPRIATE. WE BELIEVE THAT MECHANISMS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO ACCOMPLISH THIS OBJECTIVE.

FINALLY, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS GIVEN US HIS PROPOSALS FOR THE FUND BASED ON WHAT HE CONVEIVES TO BE A REASONABLE PATTERN FOR UNEP'S DEVELOPMENT OVER THE NEXT MID-TERM 1978-1981. WE UNDERSTAND THE MOTIVATIONS BEHIND HIS PROPOSAL AND WE FULLY UNCLASSIFIED

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RECOGNIZE THAT THE EXECUTIVE DRECTOR NEEDS A DECISION FROM THIS COUNCIL WHICH WILL REQUIRE BOTH HIM AND MEMBER STATES TO STRETCH THEIR EFFORTS, NOT RESTRAIN THEM. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT HIS GOAL OF \$150 MILLION OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS EXCEEDS WHAT MIGHT REASONABLY BE EXPECTED IN TERMS OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. WE BELIEVE THAT A GOAL SOMEWHAT BELOW THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FIGURE WILL PROVIDE A BETTER CHANCE OF ATTAINMENT AND STILL TEST OUR REACH. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THIS MATTER IN COMMITTEE II OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS AT WHICH PLACE WE WILL FURTHER ELABORATE OUR THOUGHTS.

IN THE MEANTIME, IT IS WITH A VERY GREAT DEAL OF PLEASURE THAT I AM ABLE TO INFORM THIS COUNCIL SESSION THAT MY GOVERNMENT HAS JUST COMPLETED PAYMENT OF A FURTHER \$10 MILLION CONTRIBUTION INTO THE ENVIRONMENT FUND FOR 1977. IN ADDITION, THE PRESIDENT HAS INCLUDED \$10 MILLION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FUND IN HIS FISCAL YEAR 1978 BUDGET REQUEST WHICH IS AT THIS TIME UNDER CONSIDERATION IN OUR CONGRESS. WITH REGARD TO THE ANTICIPATED LEVEL OF US SUPPORT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FUND IN THE YEARS COVERED BY THE MID-TERM PLAN 1978-1981, SUBJECT TO THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL DETERMINATION ON THE LEVEL OF HIS BUDGET PROPOSALS AND ON ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS, MY GOVERNMENT WILL ENDEAVOR TO CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FUND AT A LEVEL CONSISTENT WITH ITS SUPPORT IN THE PAST.

MR. PRESIDENT, ADDRESSING THIS COUNCIL FOR THE FIRST TIME IS AN ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE FOR ME. I LOOK FORWARD TO MANY SUCH FUTURE OCCASIONS AND I PLEDGE CONTINUED FULL SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF MY GOVERNMENT FOR THE IMPORTANT WORK BEING CONDUCTED HERE. BROWN UNQUOTE VANCE

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